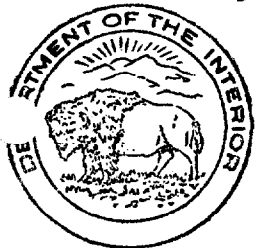


Office Distribution

3-22-49



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MARCH 22, 1949

VETERAN GOVERNMENT FISHERY SCIENTIST DIES

Director Albert M. Day and other officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service paid high tribute today to the character and scientific attainments of Dr. Samuel F. Hildebrand, veteran fishery scientist, who died suddenly of a heart attack on Wednesday, March 16, in Washington, D. C. He was 65.

A delegation of Service officials and associates of Dr. Hildebrand attended the funeral service at the S. H. Hines Funeral Home in Washington on Saturday, March 19, at 3 p.m. Interment was in Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

A nationally known ichthyologist and authority on the scientific classification of fishes, Dr. Hildebrand had served the Federal Government for more than 38 years.

"Dr. Hildebrand," said Director Day, "was an esteemed scientist upon whom we relied with confidence for information regarding many of our fishery problems. He was the Service's principal advisor on ichthyology. As a recognized authority on the subject, he was called upon frequently to settle disputed points pertaining to the correct nomenclature and classification of fishes, and to advise various State and private organizations. As a result of his long years of research on the relation of fishes to sanitation, he served as an advisor to Public Health Service and State and local health officers in this connection."

Assistant Director Milton C. James declared that Dr. Hildebrand was "an able investigator who assembled his facts with skill. His death is a great loss to us."

Dr. Hildebrand began his Federal service with the former Bureau of Fisheries on October 1, 1910, at the age of 27, as a scientific assistant in Washington, D. C. Prior to that time he had served for two years in the division of ichthyology and herpetology of the Field Museum in Chicago where he made a study of the fishes and reptiles of the Chicago area. In 1914 he was sent to the Fishery Biological Station of the Bureau of Fisheries at Beaufort, N. C. as superintendent. In 1918 he was transferred to the Key West, Fla., station.

From then until 1923 he was primarily concerned with the conduct of pioneer investigations pertaining to the relation of fishes to mosquito control. Dr. Hildebrand's field investigations at Augusta, Ga, in 1918 constituted the real beginning of the employment of fish (*Gambusia*) on a large scale and in an intelligent way for mosquito control. Subsequently he visited nearly all public health

units scattered throughout the South in 1920, 1921, and 1922 and brought about the establishment of the use of Gambusia (a small top-minnow, native of the southern states) nearly everywhere in the South for mosquito control. Another result of this work was the introduction of Gambusia to nearly all the warm countries of the world where it is widely used for checking mosquito breeding and controlling malaria.

In January 1925 Dr. Hildebrand became director of the fishery station at Beaufort, N. C., where he planned all of the Bureau of Fisheries' extensive experiments on diamond-back terrapin. In September 1931 he received another promotion which returned him to Washington as a senior ichthyologist.

Dr. Hildebrand made many field investigations. From 1910 to 1912 he was a member of the Smithsonian Institution's Biological Survey of the Panama Canal Zone at which time a very large collection of fishes was taken from that region. In 1924 he investigated the fresh-water fishes of El Salvador, Central America, and in 1934 he investigated the fish-cultural possibilities of the fresh waters of Puerto Rico. In 1935 and 1937 he again visited Panama to determine whether fishes were using the Canal to migrate from one ocean to the other.

Many numbers in the Bureau of Fisheries scientific document series and in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum were contributed by Dr. Hildebrand. These publications deal with such varied subjects as fishes in relation to mosquito control in ponds, menhaden on the coast of North Carolina, terrapin culture, fishes of east Tennessee, and the fishes of Beaufort, N. C. Two of his best known co-authored works are "Marine Fishes of Panama" and "Fishes of Chesapeake Bay." A monumental work, "Fishes", was published in 1938 in the scientific series of the Smithsonian Institution. His "Fishes of Peru" was published recently and at the time of his death he was working on a revision of the Panamanian publication.

One of his most recent undertakings was the complete review and revision of the ichthyology of the northwestern Atlantic. Several of the sections which pertained to certain groups of fishes on which he was an authority have already been completed. The Sears Foundation of New York was sponsoring this undertaking.

Dr. Hildebrand was born in Stendal, Indiana, on August 15, 1883. He received the degrees of A.B. from Indiana State Teachers College and Dr. P.H. from the University of Georgia Medical School. He belonged to such scientific organizations as the American Association for Advancement of Science, American Fisheries Society, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, National Malaria Society, Washington Academy of Sciences, Biological Society of Washington and the Indiana University Chapter of Sigma Xi.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Claudia C. Hildebrand, and three children and three grandchildren. For a number of years Dr. Hildebrand and his family had lived at 1528 Otis Street, N. E., in Washington, D. C.

x x x